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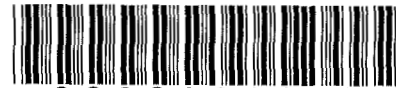
*Edwin J. Valant*

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 642

Tucson, Arizona 85702

(520) 624-9521



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May 12, 2005

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Attn: John Laporta  
1200 W. Washington  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

MAY 18 2005



AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCUMENT CONTROL

2005 MAY 18 P 2:19

RECEIVED

Re: Consumer Complaint - Southwest Gas

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your interest in this matter, and for giving me the opportunity as a citizen and customer of Southwest Gas to have input concerning their application for a rate increase. As you realize, I am counsel in a Superior Court arbitration case, filed by a Southwest Gas employee and against my clients, the customers of Southwest Gas, who in turn claimed against the public utility. An arbitration case has a jurisdictional limit of \$50,000.00; I would estimate that to date Southwest Gas has spent double that amount. Further, Southwest Gas flew their Risk Manager, Bob McGee, to Tucson from Las Vegas to attend depositions.

Meanwhile, their law firm is trying to destroy my clients with lies. Southwest Gas has produced a story about an unwritten program that permits customers to place their premises on a list that will control the utility's entry. So far as I have been able to determine, this 'program' exists only in the imagination of counsel for Southwest Gas. My point is that the utility is not seeking to vindicate some legitimate interest or right, but is using the case for junketing and experimenting with litigation techniques. This type of irresponsible financial management should not be rewarded with a rate increase, but rather an investigation.

The plaintiff decided to jump the cement wall into my clients' backyard despite a forced special instruction on his hand held computer. When confronted by my clients' dogs, he chose to try to force his way across the yard rather than to retreat. My clients did nothing, and have been harassed, sued, and slandered. If I am paying for Southwest Gas to so comport itself, perhaps I should switch to propane.

Thank you for your cooperation. My direct line is 520-883-4889. Do not hesitate to call with questions.

Yours truly,

*[Signature]*  
EDWIN J. VALANT